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SYLVESTER.

1814—1897

PROFESSOR SYLVESTER, who died in London on Monday, March 15, 1897, was the principal founder of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS*. He was its editor from its foundation in 1877 until he left the United States in December, 1883; in this editorial service he had the assistance of successive associate editors. During the first ten years of the existence of the Journal he contributed to its pages upwards of fifty papers, the greater number of these being contained in the first seven volumes. It is undoubtedly owing to his interest and enthusiasm that the Journal has attained its position in the scientific world.

JAMES JOSEPH SYLVESTER was born in London, September 3, 1814. He was educated at two private schools in London and at the Royal Institution, Liverpool, whence he proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge. He was Second Wrangler in 1837, and received the degrees of B. A. and M. A. from Dublin University in 1841 and from the University of Cambridge in 1872; he became a student of the Inner Temple, July 29, 1846, and was called to the Bar, November 22, 1850. He was for some time Professor of Natural Philosophy at University College, London, and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Virginia from 1840 to 1841. After his return to England he was for ten years engaged with a firm of actuaries. In 1855 he was appointed Professor of Mathematics at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, which position he held up to 1870.

After an interval of a little more than five years, he was invited, at the opening of the Johns Hopkins University, in 1876, to become its Professor of Mathematics, which position he held until December, 1883, when he was elected Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford, succeeding Professor Henry Smith.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1839, received a Royal Medal in 1860, and the Copley Medal in 1880. He was a Corresponding Member of the Institute of France, of the Imperial Academy of Science of St. Petersburg, of the Royal Academy of Science of Berlin, of the Lincei of Rome, of the Istituto Lombardo, and of the Société Philomatique. He was a Fellow of New College, Oxford; Foreign Associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences; Foreign Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Göttingen, of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Naples, and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston. In 1890 the "Décoration d'Officier de la Légion d'Honneur" was conferred upon him by the President of the French Republic. He received honorary degrees from the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin and Edinburgh.